

AN OLD INSTITUTION

Grand Jury System Dates Back to Early English History, Being First Used by Saxons.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE

Not Meet With Favor Among the Local Attorneys.

STORY OF THE SYSTEM

Before the Illinois legislature grand juries shall be the defense in the interest before them, it will not pass, but it is a good institution and deserves improvement, but there is no such radical as proposed, especially in the county of Cook. Speaking of this bill that the law is enough long to aid guilty persons in their defense, and he suggests and better employ their means of those listed of and making it still easier to punishment to evade such a bill would result in putting trial courts or as in the courts. The only intentions should come to the grand jury, like the trial of the body any cause of law violation of which may have a personal knowledge.

PEOPLE THE PROSECUTOR

Originally when the grand jury was first drawn, a few hundred years ago more or less, its object was probably to bring about the punishment of crimes without betraying the identity of the complainant, and also to act as a check upon officials. The accuracy of the body could bring about the first result and the fact that the members of the jury could not upon hearsay evidence and investigate rumors tended to give a large power over pilfering officials. That is, if a person had a complaint against a neighbor and feared to cause his arrest by personal application to a magistrate or desired for any other reason to remain in the background, he went secretly to the chamber in which the grand jury met and made his complaint, stating his evidence to the body. If no indictment was returned "people" appeared as prosecutor when the case came to trial in court and the person who made the complaint appeared as only one of perhaps several witnesses against the defendant. The same system is in vogue today.

CHECK ON OFFICIALS

The utility of the grand jury is a strong curb upon public officers lies in the fact that no person would take it upon himself to begin the prosecution of an official for malfeasance in office. In the absence of a grand jury system should it become notorious that a certain official was in collusion with informers or was a bribe-taker, he would go unscathed if the law unless some particular person should be sufficiently interested in the matter to swear a complaint against him. Then it would devolve upon the complainant to discover the evidence, secure the witness and, in fact, present the case, as though it were a personal suit against the defendant. The chances are decidedly against any citizen doing that sort of thing of his own volition, especially in these days.

SOME ARE EXEMPT

People are prone to dissent upon the corruption and venality of public officials and take those conditions for granted, at though they were something which could not be remedied. On the principle that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business," each person would stand back and wait for some one else to take the initiative in beginning proceedings against the bribe-taker official.

THE JURY

That is where the function of the grand jury, enabling it to investigate the existence of current rumors, steps in to benefit the community at large.

HISTORY OF GRAND JURIES

The creation of the grand jury dates back to a period in English history when it was among the Saxons and was proved for by a law that shows that originally it was a body of 12 men, but in the year 1111 it was the practice to have 12 other knights to take it into the inquiry to be made in the court of Edward III in Middlesex to the hundred, the sheriff to return a panel of knights of the county. This jury was called "inquest" and made inquiries, mostly while the jury in the inquiry for the discovery of the practice of summing up the hundred gradually went down the number of the jury, not less than 12 men, or that which is now the number of the ancient grand jury, when only sufficient persons to require a trial. It is the foreman of the jury accompanied by one member, when returning an indictment. The practice to this day is for the entire jury to enter into their findings.

THE VOTES OF THE JURY

The votes of this body are remarkable, as no information concerning them from any citizen, it may be, can be given before it or it may be held in the criminal courts by the magistrate, or it may be furnished by any of the parties. When it is borne in mind that the evidence before the jury is represented, and the community is free to present evidence without contradiction by any of the parties, it will be seen that indictment is turned against anybody. Of course, an indictment is a great weight, as a matter of fact, and a petit jury called in a single person is bound by the agreement of the defendant to be guilty by the state.

ANOTHER COW CASE

of Trouble Between Two Farmers

—Other Business

Mr. Walter Carpenter, Ed

and Mr. Molson Snook, charged

in a lottery game up before

the Hon. O'Meara Monday and

the parties valued examination

and judgment of \$100 each for

the last term of the farmers residing southeast of the city.

Some time ago one of the cows

of the parties was taken by the

defendant's son, and the

defendant was indicted for

the last term of the farmers residing southeast of the city.

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REPUBLICAN TICKET, DECATUR TOWNSHIP.

For Supervisor—J. H. Reed.

For Assistant Supervisor—J. A. Hanson, G. W. Martin, F. W. Kipp, John Barron, William Nehrlmeyer and J. W. Wagland.

For Assessor—H. W. Waggoner.

For Collector—Ed. G. Allen.

For Town Clerk—John Nichols.

For Justice—James O'Meara, J. H. McCoy, J. C. Ilene, P. B. Pravost, O. W. Smith.

For Constables—W. W. Conard, T. L. Atkinson, John T. Lloyd, H. K. Middle.

For Supervisor—Ossiebury Martin.

PAIR PRIMARIES.

The names for mayor and aldermen as the republican primary election ticket have been announced. The next step of the city central committee should be to arrange for a fair primary. This can be done very easily and democrats can be prohibited from naming the candidates at the primaries, and the votes can be counted as cast. To accomplish this all that is necessary is to make the committee who conducts the primary responsible, requiring him to record the name of every voter as he votes. Keep a tally sheet as the votes are counted and return the ballots, the boxes, the list of those voting and the tally sheet to the central committee where the result may be reviewed and crookedness detected if there is any. If such rules were adopted by the committee and each committee man were held responsible for their enforcement there would be little if any crookedness. When dishonesty is practiced at the primaries it is because the scoundrels who practice it know that the evidence of their crookedness or at least that their work will not be reviewed. If the republicans expect to be successful with the candidates named at the primaries the primaries must be conducted fairly. This is a fact that the party constituents at this hour and the committee should not fail to throw every endeavor about the primaries.

SMALL WRECK

Near Burrowville on the I. D. & W. Brakeman Galvin Injured.

Near Burrowville Friday morning the west bound local freight on the I. D. & W. had a small wreck. The train broke into two pieces and they afterwards ran together. The collision was one of considerable force and Conductor George Smith and Section Foreman Bumby were thrown down with such force that they suffered severe bruises and each had a scalp wound that bled profusely. Their injuries, however, were not of a serious nature. The local freight carries passengers and there were a number of them in the caboose at the time. That car seemed to get the full force of the collision and the platform on the front end was crushed completely. One passenger whose name could not be learned also suffered a slight scalp wound. The others had nothing but slight bruises.

Several of the cars of the train were jolted from the track but there was none turned over. The Decatur yard engine and Section Foreman Holland with his crew went out to assist in getting the cars on the track again.

BRAKEMAN INJURED.

Brakeman W. A. Galvin of the Wabash had a close call Friday afternoon at Sidney. He was on engine 702 on a west bound freight and was leaning far out to one, a signal which he was expecting would be made at the time of the train. While in that position he was struck by a stampede. He sustained a scalp wound which cut clean to the bone just above the left ear. Galvin continued to work until his train reached Decatur and then he got on a passenger train and came to Decatur. The wound is painful, but not dangerous.

GRAY'S BILL

Authorizing Cities to Buy Library Sites Is Made a Special Order.

Representative J. M. Gray is pushing his bill authorizing city councils to buy sites for library buildings. The Springfield Register of Friday says:

Mr. Gray called up his bill, authorizing cities to purchase sites for public libraries. "This bill," said he, "is to enable the cities of the state that are getting libraries from Mr. Carnegie or from any other source to purchase sites for the same. At present they can buy a tax for building purposes, but not for the purchase of a site. In Decatur we selected a site and contracted for the ground, but discovered that we could not appropriate money to pay for it and we need this bill in order to do so."

Mr. Purhann opposed the bill. "The trouble is," said Mr. Purhann, "that Mr. Carnegie in making these gifts for public libraries exacts a certain amount for a site and for maintenance. As a consequence half of the cities of the state will be broken up to maintain these libraries."

"I suggest," said Mr. Gray, "that none of the cities need accept Mr. Carnegie's gifts unless they desire to do so."

"If Mr. Carnegie wants to dispose of his surplus," said Mr. Allen, "let us help him." Laughter.

The bill was advanced to third reading and, under a suspension of the rules, made a special order on its passage for next Tuesday morning.

THE SITE DETERMINED

For the Anna B. Millikin Home—High Ground Chosen.

The site for the Anna B. Millikin Home has been chosen. There was never any question about the lot on which the house should be placed but there was a question as to the particular portion of that lot.

There is a knoll in the lot bounded by James Millikin and it was at first the intention to put the building a little to the south of that knoll. Within the last few days the conclusion has been reached that the building would have a more striking appearance if put upon the higher ground.

James Armstrong will superintend the construction work and it is the expectation that ground will be broken next week.

Amend Australian Law.

Representative D. E. Sullivan, of Cook, has presented an amendment to the Australian bill law. It provides that an illiterate voter may have the assistance of election officers of different political parties in the preparation of his ballot, such officers to be designated by the judges of election of each precinct at the opening of the polls. Instruction shall be given as a physical disability and an illiterate person shall be entitled to assist, as in marking his ballot.

Cruiser Decatur.

M. B. Stearns manager, of The Decatur, recently received from his friend, Captain Sam Lemley of the United States Navy, a photograph of the launching of the armored cruiser, "Decatur." The photograph has been framed and hangs in a conspicuous place in the hotel office. With the manager of that ever popular hotel, every word honorably bearing that name is given recognition.

Medicine Writers.

Medicine companies as a general thing employ versatile medicine writers at a high salary to manufacture their advertisements, and as a general thing they testimonials read of people affected and cured with their remedy thousands of miles away. It's different with Dr. Price's Rite and Tonic. They have furnished hundreds of testimonials of worthy citizens of this city, and we know them to be genuine. It's a cough cure adapted for all ages and cures chronic and acute cases, consumption, bronchial asthma, etc. etc.

This article on Wells gives us a clear conception of Bryan's idea of a democrat. Mr. Wells, of course, thinks he is a democrat, and did not believe he surrendered any democratic principles when he voted against free silver which was made an issue by Bryan in 1896. Mr. Wells could not support Bryan in 1896 for the same reason and several additional ones,

IT IS IN A BAD MIX

Demand for Resignation of Sec. Atkins Threatens Disruption of R. R. Y. M. C. A.

A HISTORY OF THE TROUBLE

Had its Origin in Charge of Alleged Improper Conduct of Assistant Secretary and Waitress.

THE MEMBERS STAND BY ADKINS

It has been known for several weeks that a clash had occurred between the city department and the railroad department of the Y. M. C. A. which threatened serious consequences to both the associations. Charges were made that reflected seriously on the management of the railroad department and that department after investigation dug the truth of the charges.

The railroad department is a branch of the city department of the association and although self-supporting it has always made its monthly reports to the board of directors of the city department. It is in the power of the city department to make suggestions in reference to the management of the railroad department and the trouble which is now existing grows out of the demand from the city department for the discharge of certain of the employees of the railroad department and the resignation of Secretary B. D. Atkins.

The origin of the trouble is in the charge of unbecoming conduct between Assistant Secretary McFollos and Miss Hannah Jones. These charges were investigated by Secretary Atkins and the board of management and they recommended that there was no foundation for them and refused to make the discharge as demanded.

Since that time petitions have been circulated among the members of the railroad department and the matter has come to the public notice. Secretary B. D. Atkins has given out a statement of the trouble from the beginning believing that the public is entitled to know the truth.

THE STORY.

On January 2, 1901, S. D. Atkins was called before the executive committee of the railroad department which preferred charges of unbecoming conduct against Assistant Secretary Harry McFollos and Miss Hannah Jones. These charges were investigated by Secretary Atkins and the board of management and they recommended that there was no foundation for them and refused to make the discharge as demanded.

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HOOPER IS INSANE

The Second Hearing in His Case Was Had on Friday.

THE TESTIMONY OF HOOPER

Was Amply Sufficient to Show That at Times, at Least, He Is Not Sound Mentally.

HE WILL BE SENT TO AN ASYLUM

In the county court Friday Joseph Hooper of Marion had a second hearing on charge of insanity and he was declared to be insane and ordered sent to a hospital.

Hooper's case is a peculiar one.

A few days ago when he had his first hearing in this court he was on the stand and testified in his own behalf. Hooper has a high school education and an intelligent fellow. His mental trouble comes by "spells." The first day he was on the stand he was apparently perfectly sound mentally and his conversation and appearance was such as would lead the average jury to the conclusion that the man was sound. Then, too, there were few witnesses against him who could tell much of his trouble.

Friday Dr. McLean, B. F. Shipley and other well known citizens of Marion were present to tell what they knew about the unfortunate man. Hooper himself was on the stand. As he was sound mentally the first day, so was he off yesterday. He rambled and made it clear that he was at last subject to temporary aberration.

Some of the witnesses told about Hooper hearing voices when no one was in sight. He had one time been in an asylum in Iowa and he imagined that he heard voices talking about his former condition and considering the question of capturing him again and sending him to another hospital.

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Hooper went on the witness stand and, to his own satisfaction, easily explained that circumstance by telling the jury that the woman who had just testified was present the day the voices in the chimney bothered him. He explained, however, that the woman was a ventriloquist and had made her voice appear in the chimney to annoy him. He told of three different persons who were ventriloquists and used that power to distract him.

Hooper had a habit of writing out some of the strange fancies which ran through his brain. He used quills of paper writing the vilest stuff imaginable, and in these productions would perhaps connect the name of a man with some woman with whom he had no acquaintance.

When all of this had been presented and little or nothing being offered for the other theory, the jury did not hesitate long in reaching a conclusion.

GETS BUSY AGAIN.

Pana Correspondent Is Looking After the Entire State.

Some of the telegraph editors of the metropolitan papers should study the geography of the state some morning after they get through work. A little better acquaintance with it would enable them to see that they are regularly worked by ambitious correspondents. At Pana there is a man who looks after the news of the entire state. There is very little happening at Pana when there is not a coal strike and the correspondent is in a very bad position.

Mr. Atkins now finds himself in a very embarrassing position with the request for his resignation on the one hand and the probable disruption of the railroad association on the other. The latter condition being evident from the fact that 175 of the membership tickets have been turned in with the statement in each case that Mr. Atkins has to go without a proper hearing, that they have no more use for him or any association calling itself Christian that will not give one of its members a fair hearing."

SUGGESTS SEPARATION.

It has been suggested by one of the large contributors to the railroad department building fund and the members of the railroad department that the only solution of the problem now is the absolute disengagement of the railroad department from the city department. There being nothing in common between the two departments, their lines of work being different and each being conducted independently of the other so far as the features are concerned.

THE WORK DONE.

The railroad department has been doing a splendid work since its organization in this city and the ability of Secretary Atkins as a manager has never been questioned. The association began business with an indebtedness of \$200,000 and the first year did a business of \$14,000. An addition was built to the house which was paid for and at the end of the year '01 debts had been paid and a balance of \$80,50 remained in the treasury. Religious meetings have been held every Thursday night and frequently on Sunday. Good interest has been manifested at the meetings and Secretary Atkins states that the religious interest was flourishing until the unpleasant trouble arose which has resulted in a falling off in the religious work as well as in the finances. The outcome of the difficulty is anxiously awaited by the friends of the association.

CARS MORE PLentiful.

B. F. Walter, traveling representative of the State Granite Dealers' association, was in the city today. Mr. Walter states that the first three had been carried out but the other two had not. When asked the reason he stated that his committee had instructed him that the discharging of these plates was entirely in their hands.

There seemed to be some difference between the statements of Mr. Atkins and Mr. Atkins was satisfied by the solid committee that they, the committee, only could discharge this party for this or other offense.

The next Mr. Atkins or the committee of management head of this matter was on the morning of February 22 when the executive committee of the city association called Mr. Atkins before them and asked if Mr. Atkins' suggestions had been carried out. He informed them that the first three had been carried out but the other two had not. When asked the reason he stated that his committee had instructed him that the discharging of these plates was entirely in their hands.

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ASTORIA

THE NEW COAL CO.

In a Measure Will Probably Be a Co-operative Concern.

SOME PROMOTERS DESIRE IT

The Expectation is That License to Incorporate Will Be Asked For Within Another Thirty Days.

PROCEEDS SLOWLY BUT SURELY

The promoters of the new coal company, as far as their plans are moving, hope slowly toward completion. It is none the less surely. They are now of the opinion that within another thirty days they will be in such shape that they will be able to ask the secretary of the state for articles of incorporation and then proceed to the step of formally organizing the company. All of the men who have been regarded as certain to be stockholders in the new concern are anxious to get the work underway. There has never been any trouble of getting money interested. More than enough for the capital stock has been offered.

There is one feature suggested by some of the men interested that is something of a novelty in the coal mining business. There is a desire on the part of some of the promoters to set aside a part of the stock that may be submitted for by the employees and to a certain extent make the company co-operative. Of course if the men who dig the coal are interested the venture in a financial way beyond the mere question of wages, they will be expected to take a greater interest in the affair and better results may be obtained for the company and for the miners themselves. The miners will then be in a position to know what returns if any, are made on the investment, and will get their share in proportion to their stock subscriptions.

HORSES AND MULES.

Sold at Good Prices in Decatur on Saturday.

There were several horses and mules in the city Saturday and the way the stock sold was a flattering assurance to the farmers that horses and mules flesh is good thing to have just at present. The regular Held & Watt horses sale which is at the Galt barn and during the afternoon fifty head of good horses were sold. Some of the horses were a lot that had been selected by George Watt to keep within the past two weeks and there were many also animals in the lot including several coaches and road horses.

Charles Method will have three horses at the track. His mare, Fay Gordon, 20%, will be put in shape for a campaign. In addition he will have a 2-year-old stallion by Odline J. O. The colt is a natural trotter and Method has hopes that he will be a credit to his sire.

Method will also handle Laura Wilkes.

Method was born in 1890, was

an only child and

when she was

about 10 years old

she was

induced by

her mother to

do the housework

and the

work of the

household.

She was

never sent to

school and

she has

never been

out of the

household.

She has

never been</p

